Innovation, Competition, and Intellectual Property: Providing an Economic Framework

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Intellectual & Tangible Property Are Not Economically Equivalent

- Social Benefits
- Complementary Assets
- Free-Rider Possibilities
- R&D Risk

- Breadth of Exclusion
- Length of Exclusion
- Risks of Follow-on Innovators

Implications of IP Protection on Innovation & Competition

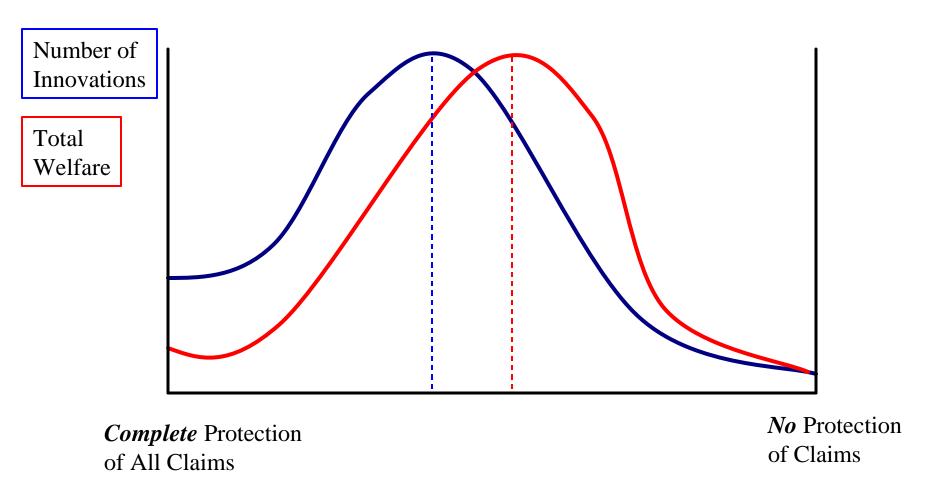
• Strong IP Protection

- Reduced Follow-on Innovations
- Less Price Competition
- Fewer Externalities for Society

Weak IP Protection

- Free Rider Problem & Reduced Incentives to Innovate
- More PriceCompetition
- Fewer Externalities for Society

Optimal IP Protection



Degree of IP Protection →

Tension Between Patent Protection & Antitrust

Favor IP Protection

?

Favor Antitrust

Xerox

Nobelpharma

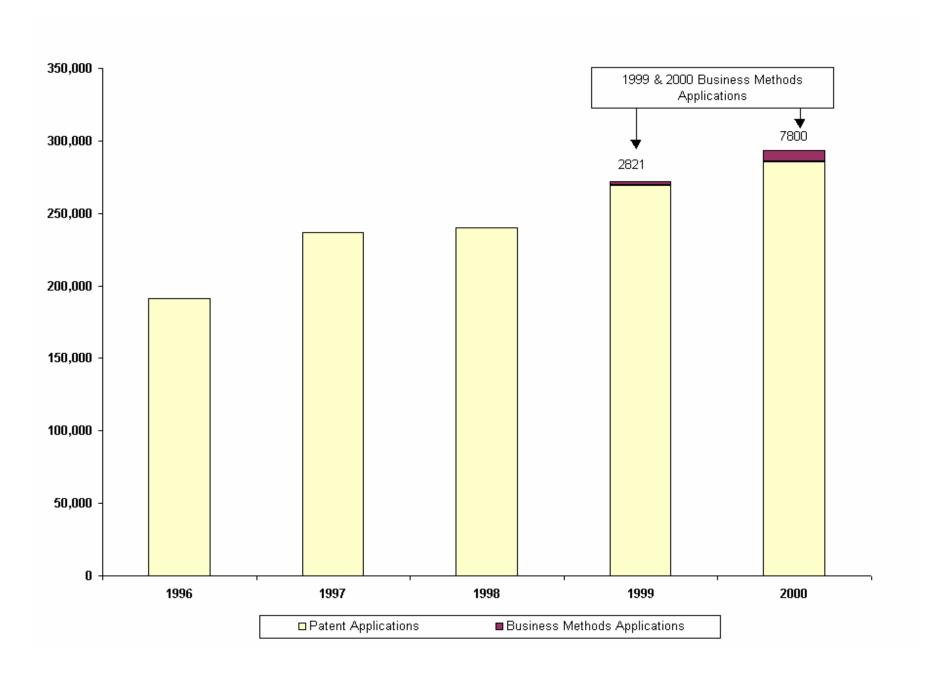
Kodak

Intergraph v.
Intel

Bard

FTC Intel
Consents

Patent Applications 1996-2000



Summary

- Recognize & study the implication of differences between IP & tangible property
- Systematically balance the IP protection & antitrust to maximize welfare
- Recognize the limits of the PTO process